



Beaverton Police Department

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Chief Geoff Spalding



NEWS RELEASE

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Three Flags Traffic Safety Campaign

Officers from the Beaverton Police Department will again join law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon in the Three Flags Seatbelt Enforcement Campaign, that begins Monday, February 10, 2014 and will continue through Sunday, February, 23, 2014. The focus of this campaign is seatbelt use, booster seats, distracted driving involving cell phones and speeding. The goal of this campaign is to reduce traffic injuries and deaths by increased education and enforcement.

A statewide observation survey in June 2013 found ninety - eight percent of Oregon's motoring public using safety belts, making Oregon one of the two highest belt use states in our country. Since the 1990 passage of Oregon's adult belt law, observed belt use among the motoring public has doubled from 50% to 98% while crash fatality and injury rates have both dramatically decreased by 58% and 24% respectively.

Oregon law requires that there be "proper use" of the entire seatbelt system; lap belt placed low across the hips and a shoulder belt over the collarbone and crossing the center of the chest. Belts should be free of slack and lying flat with no twists or knots. If necessary, slide the attachment on the door post up or down to fit the size of you or your passenger. Shoulder belts should not be placed under the arm or behind the back – this can cause serious internal injuries or ejection in the event of a crash.

A child weighing less than 40 pounds must be properly restrained in a child safety seat. A child under one year of age or weighing less than twenty pounds must be restrained in a rear-facing child seat. A child over forty pounds but under age eight or less than 4' 9" tall must be restrained in either a child seat with harness system or in a booster seat that raises the child up so that a lap and shoulder belt system fit correctly.

The Beaverton Police Department holds free child safety seat clinics throughout the year. The next two clinics will be on February 15, 2014 and March 15, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Kuni Cadillac collision Center located at 3725 SW Cedar Hills Blvd, Beaverton, OR 97005.

The use of cell phones while driving a motor vehicle is not only against the law and could lead to a traffic ticket, but could cause the senseless death of you or another person.

The Beaverton Police Department will continue to strive to keep our citizens safe, reminding you that car seats, seat belts and following the posted speed limit are an effective way to protect you and your family. Our enforcement efforts will be on-going as we work with the community to save lives.

Speeding and driver impairment are the most common causes of injury crashes. Oregon's safety belt overtime enforcement program is committed to reducing the severity of crash injuries by promoting proper safety belt and child restraint use.

Three Flag Blitz campaigns are funded through grants received from the Oregon Department of Transportation.

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